

TAX CREDIT FOR HISTORIC HOME REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I join Representatives SHAW and KENNELLY in cosponsoring legislation that would provide a tax credit for the rehabilitation of a historic home. This legislation would help those who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as a principle residence.

This tax credit would provide an incentive for the revitalization of many neighborhoods by promoting economic stability and home ownership. I represent the city of Springfield which has many older communities which would benefit greatly from this bill. The city of Springfield and its surrounding communities have many beautiful older historic homes and this tax credit provides a great opportunity for individuals to restore and live in these houses.

The credit is capped at \$50,000 and it would be for 20 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. The credit is not based on the individual's income. However, the property must be used as a taxpayer's principle residence.

Single-family and multifamily homes would qualify for the credit. A developer may rehabilitate a qualifying property for sale and pass the credit through to the home buyer. Properties eligible for the credit are those listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places or on a State or local register, as well as contributing buildings in national, State, and local historic districts.

This tax credit is essential for revitalizing historic districts of our older cities. We have many beautiful homes and neighborhoods in our older cities and we should do everything possible to preserve their unique beauty. This tax credit helps preserve our history. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

JAMES F. COSGROVE, VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY CONTEST WINNER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call the attention of the House to the work of James F. Cosgrove of Wilmington, DE. James is Delaware's State winner of the Veterans of Foreign War's Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest and has received a \$1,500 Edward A. Nardi Scholarship award. I congratulate James, his family, and VFW Post 3257 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Wilmington, DE for sponsoring this excellent program.

As my colleagues know, the VFW has sponsored the Voice of Democracy Competition for 50 years to promote patriotic and civic responsibility among our young people and to help them attend college through the scholarship awards. The competition requires students to write and record a 3- to 5-minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year, over 109,000 students participated in the contest on the theme:

"Democracy—Above and Beyond." I am very proud to share with the House James' excellent essay on the need for young people to become actively involved in making our country a better place to live.

Again, congratulations to James, the Cosgrove family, and the members of VFW Post 3257 and their ladies Auxiliary for their fine work.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(By Delaware winner James Cosgrove)

The phone rang. The caller quickly told me to turn on CNN. Although confused, I turned on the television. I was soon shocked to hear what Wolf Blitzer had to report. The United States of America, under the direction of President Bush, had attacked the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

As the initial shock subsided, a dread thought invaded my mind. Would my father be sent to fight as well? At that time my father was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. If the fighting continued, he too would be among the masses of Marines being deployed from the base.

The war raged on and the weeks passed. An air of tension enveloped our household since that first day in January when the telephone rang. We were anxious about what was to become of our father. As the war continued, I became increasingly frustrated with my government. They were endangering the life of my father on behalf of Kuwait, a country that I had not heard of in the six years I had been attending elementary school. For me, each day of stressful waiting increased my level of disenchantment.

A few months later, the phone rang a second time. It was my father's commanding officer, informing my dad that he was scheduled to join the next shipment of Marines as a member of the medical corps. The will was written. The bags were packed. The family was morbid. At first I wanted to cry as my mother so often did. I decided instead to follow the example of my father's serene confidence and sense of duty. His air of determination comforted me and gave me hope that he would emerge from the Gulf unscathed. It was then that I realized what sets our nation apart from all other nations.

The American people are what establishes our system of government above and beyond all other forms of government. People who vote. People who own their own businesses. People who feel such a strong devotion to their country that they would be willing to lay down their lives for it. People like my father. The system of democracy places the power to pass laws, support the economy, and protect the country in the hands of the people. This trust, an essential element of democracy, is what truly makes our government excel. Everyone can flourish in an environment where they receive the respect, trust and power necessary to make their government "by the people and for the people." Such is the case of the United States of America!

Thankfully my father was not deployed overseas. Instead, he was assigned to a state-side medical facility. As a sixth grader, I was not conscious of the fact that the democracy in which I lived was the model government. I was not able to comprehend that the freedom and individual rights that I experienced were not present in other countries. Greed and corruption may infest other governments but for 220 years have not been able to control democratic America. Americans should feel pride in being the key ingredient in a recipe that has produced the greatest nation in the world! A nation governed by a

philosophy that is above and beyond that of all other nations.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF HICKMAN COUNTY LADY 'DAWGS 1996-97 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 1997 Double AA State Champions for Tennessee girls high school basketball. The Hickman County Lady Bulldogs finished their season with a record of 32-4, an impressive mark by any standard.

The achievement of any team rests in the genius of those who guide its players and point them down the pathway of success. Coach Barry Wortman, assistant coaches Misty Shelton and Aaron Taylor, team manager Rocky Stinson, and team trainers Mark Buck and Brian Johnson, are to be commended for their hard work and love of the game of basketball, as well as for their devotion to the girls who brought them and all of Hickman County this distinctive honor.

Among other accomplished athletes, this year's Lady 'Dawgs team included All-State players Becky Myatt and Talisha Scates. In fact Becky Myatt's athleticism and mastery of the game of basketball landed her with perhaps the most prestigious award any high school player can earn, Athlete of the Year. In addition to the achievement of Myatt and Scates, Jennifer Dick and Emily Vincent earned All-Tournament honors. And Amanda Judd was an All-State Tournament Award winner as well.

Rounding out the roster of this middle Tennessee girls high school basketball powerhouse were Eugenia McClain, Cassidy Jenkins, Brandi Jimerson, Heidi McDonald, Jenny Powers, Racheal Buchanan, and Brandy Martin. Without these players, the Lady 'Dawgs surely would not have been quite the exceptional team they went on to be.

As Hickman County's representative in Congress, I am proud to see its residents and communities enjoy this well deserved recognition. The 1996-97 Lady 'Dawgs have left a legacy which will be remembered next year and many years to come in Hickman County and throughout Tennessee. To the future Lady 'Dawgs teams, I wish you well in your endeavors to carry forward with the championship and winning traditions of Hickman County High School. Congratulations.

HONORING LARRY WENNLUND

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of a great statesman, Representative Larry Wennlund, after 11 years of public service to the people of Illinois and the residents of the 38th District.

Representative Wennlund has been a lifelong resident of New Lenox, IL, and received a bachelor of arts from the University of Illinois